

Dolores Winans
21 St. George Place
Sandy Hook, CT. 06482
Tel: 203-270-1928

February 28, 2012

TO HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN SERVICE COMMITTEE:

My name is Dolores Winans and I am writing in strong **support of RB 230, An Act Concerning CHOICES for Long-Term Care and Disability Services**. As a consumer who has used the services of the western ADRC, certified CHOICES Counselor who has volunteered at the Western CT. Area Agency on Aging (WCAAA) for several years in providing direct benefits' assistance for seniors and younger persons with disabilities, a member of the CT. Association of Area Agencies on Aging and a long standing member of the WCAAA Board of Directors, I offer the following in support of RB 230:

- ✓ Connecticut needs to formalize ADRC designations statewide to continue receiving federal demonstration funds that will allow for desired changes in the long term care system. Note that we are one of only a few states that have not achieved such designations statewide. Federal funding allows for testing of models prior to final adoption and system change.
- ✓ ADRCS are one stop shop locations for seniors and younger persons with disabilities. Callers/visitors are able to understand benefits for which they qualify and gain assistance in completing applications. Since ADRCS are required to follow up with clients to ensure that services are actually received, it seems to me that ADRCS are an important link for seniors who may not be able to follow through on their own and/or younger persons with disabilities who also may experience difficulties in extensive follow through of laborious applications.

I urge your positive consideration of RB 230 and will be happy to respond to questions.

Dolores Winans